

Message Text

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TO USMISSION OECD PARIS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, OECD

SUBJECT: CONSULTATIONS WITH TUAC AND BIAC PRIOR TO
MSAC MINISTERIAL MEETING

REF: OECD PARIS 0825

1. WE HAVE REVIEWED CAREFULLY QUESTION OF US POSITION IN
THE MANPOWER AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (MSAC) MEETING
JANUARY 19-20 AS TO WHETHER MSAC SHOULD AGREE TO SECRE-
TARIAT REQUEST THAT IT HOLD CONSULTATIONS WITH THE TRADE
UNION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TUAC) PRIOR TO THE MSAC
MINISTERIAL MEETING IN MARCH.

2. AT THE LAST MEETING OF THE MSAC IN DECEMBER WE UNDER-
STAND MOST COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE NOT IN FAVOR OF CONSUL-
TATIONS. AUSTRALIA WAS STRONGLY AGAINST CONSULTATIONS
BECAUSE OF ITS OPPOSITION TO PRINCIPLE TRILATERALISM
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BETWEEN GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS AND LABOR; OTHERS (INCLUDING

THE UK) FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY EXPRESSED STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT CONSULTATIONS BUT INDICATED THEY WOULD GO ALONG WITH A CONSENSUS OF THE COMMITTEE. OTHERS EXPRESSED NO OPINION. GERMAN DELEGATION EXPRESSED OPPOSITION IN CORRIDOR CONVERSATION BUT SAID IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR FRG TO BE ON THE RECORD AGAINST CONSULTATIONS (NOT THAT LACK OF CONSULTATIONS PER SE WOULD PRESENT PROBLEMS TO FRG). WE UNDERSTAND ONLY ITALIAN DEL AND ITALIAN CHAIRMAN OF MSAC EXPRESSED UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH TUAC SUPPORTED BY SCANDINAVIANS.

3. AT THIS LATE DATE WE SEE LITTLE TO BE GAINED AND SOME SERIOUS POSSIBLE DRAWBACKS FROM CONSULTATIONS WITH TUAC BY MSAC EXPANDED BUREAU BETWEEN NOW AND THE LABOR MINISTERIAL. SUCH CONSULTATIONS MAY WELL LEAD TO A TUAC REPORT TO MINISTERIAL WHICH COULD RAISE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES ABOUT MATTERS ON THE MINISTERIAL AGENDA WHICH IT WOULD BE AWKWARD OR IMPOLITIC FOR MINISTERS NOT TO DISCUSS OR TO MERELY "NOTE" IN A COMMUNIQUE. AFL-CIO HAS EXPRESSED NO INTEREST IN HOLDING CONSULTATIONS, ALTHOUGH IF CONSULTATIONS ARE HELD IT WOULD WISH TO BE INCLUDED.

4. IN PRINCIPLE, WE CAN SEE REASONS WHY CONSULTATIONS WITH TUAC AND THE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BIAC) WOULD BE DESIRABLE. HOWEVER, TO BE MEANINGFUL, ADVICE FROM TUAC AND BIAC SHOULD BE ADEQUATELY CONSIDERED BY MSAC ITSELF AND COMMENTED UPON FOR THE BENEFIT OF MINISTERS. THIS WOULD REQUIRE A SEPARATE MEETING OF THE MSAC AFTER ITS CONSULTATIONS AND PRIOR TO THE MINISTERIAL. THIS SIMPLY DOES NOT SEEM FEASIBLE GIVEN THE SHORT TIME REMAINING. FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE RELATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES, WE SEE LITTLE TO BE LOST BY OPPOSING CONSULTATIONS SINCE MOST OTHERS ARE ALSO IN OPPOSITION OR INDIFFERENT WITH ONLY ITALIANS AND SCANDINAVIANS IN FAVOR.

5. US DEL TO MSAC MEETING JANUARY 19-20 WILL THEREFORE SEEK TO JOIN WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN OPPOSING CONSULTATIONS AT THIS TIME. WE AGREE WITH MISSION THAT THE US SHOULD IF AT ALL POSSIBLE NOT GET OUT IN FRONT OF
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OTHERS IN OPPOSING CONSULTATIONS AND IN ANY CASE SHOULD NOT TAKE A COMPLETELY ISOLATED POSITION. US DELEGATION WILL THUS SEEK TO HAVE OTHERS TAKE THE LEAD IN OPPOSING CONSULTATIONS AND JOIN WITH THEM. HOWEVER, AFTER HAVING MADE OUR VIEWS CLEAR TO OTHER DELS AS APPROPRIATE, SHOULD NO OTHER COUNTRY BE OPPOSED TO CONSULTATIONS, THE US DEL WILL WITHDRAW ITS OPPOSITION; PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT ASSURANCES CAN BE GIVEN THAT AFL-CIO REPRESENTATIVES WILL

BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO JOIN IN TUAC CONSULTATIONS
AND PROVIDED FURTHER THAT BIAC ALSO BE INVITED TO JOIN
IN PARALLEL CONSULTATIONS.

6. SHOULD A MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE, BELIEVE THAT
CONSULTATIONS WITH TUAC AND BIAC ARE DESIRABLE ON THE
IMPORTANT ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT THE MINISTERIAL,
BUT THAT TIME DOES NOT PERMIT THE PROPER CONSIDERATION
OF THEIR ADVICE BEFORE THE MINISTERIAL ITSELF, WE WOULD
NOT OPPOSE CONSULTATIONS AFTER THAT TIME. KISSINGER

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